

# NORTH CHANNEL★STAR

*Your News, Your Newspaper*

Serving all of the North Shore -- Channelview, Sheldon, Galena Park, Jacinto City  
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## CHANNEL CURRENTS

### GALENA PARK-JACINTO CITY COMMUNITY-INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP (CIP)

Next Meeting Thursday, April 5, 2018

5:45 - light dinner. 6:15- business starts. Meeting adjourns by 8:15 p.m.

At Alvin Baggett Recreation Building in the conference room by the south door, 1302 Keene in Galena Park.

Host plant: Gulf Coast Authority

- We will go outside to look at pieces of emergency response equipment that would be available in the CIP area if there were a major industrial emergency.

- You will be able to look closely at equipment and talk to those who operate it about what their organization does and what the equipment is used for and its features

- Equipment is expected to include:

- o equipment from Harris County hazardous materials group

- o PortHouston's new command vehicle

- o a Channel Industries Mutual Aid (CIMA) fire truck from LyondellBasell that can fight a refinery fire

- o mobile medical equipment from Southeast Houston Regional Advisory Council, which would assist with regional trauma.

### WEIGHT LOSS EDUCATIONAL EVENT

Houston Methodist San Jacinto Hospital invites the community to explore weight lost options, Thursday, March 22, 6-7 pm, 3rd floor conference room, 4201 Garth Plaza 1. For details, please see ad on page 8

## Channelview ISD Bus Crashes in Alabama

*Driver dead, 20 students injured*



THE CHARTERED BUS, with 46 persons onboard, left the I-10 Roadway in Alabama, went through the median, and plunged over 50 feet down a Ravine, and then overturned.

CHANNELVIEW – Parents and school officials were shocked to hear early Tuesday morning that a chartered bus, with 46 students and adults from Channelview, had left the I-10 roadway in Alabama,

and plunged down a 50 foot drop into a ravine, injuring most of the passengers and killing the bus driver.

Two buses, chartered from First Class Tours in Aldine, were bringing the Falcon band members back

from a vacation and performance at Disney World park in Florida. It was the second, or trailing bus, that had the accident.

Authorities said that the scene did not show any indication that the bus

tried to stop or swerve. The path led through the grassy median and over an embankment and a drop of over 50 feet into a ravine.

Alabama state trooper John Malone indicated that the driver, Harry Ca-

ligone may have been “unresponsive” prior to the crash, leading to speculation that he actually died of a medical problem such as a heart attack. However-

See BUS CRASH, page 8



FALCON BAND MEMBERS pose for a group photo at Disney World in Florida, the day before they left on the fateful bus trip home.

## Pct. 2 opens unique Seguin Park

LA PORTE – Harris County Precinct 2 Commissioner Jack Morman announces the opening of Juan Seguin Park. The \$3.4 million project transformed the undeveloped greenspace into an educational park that focuses on Lieutenant Colonel Juan Seguin and his role in Texas History.

“We wanted to tie into all the history along Independence Parkway from the Battleship Texas, the Battleground site, Lynchburg Ferry and the David G. Burnet Park just north of this channel,” said Commissioner Morman.

The Precinct worked diligently with the Harris County Historical Commission, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, as well as Juan Seguin descendants to create educational and unique aspects



Drone photo, courtesy of Pct. 2, shows the beauty of the new Juan Seguin Historic Park, on the Ship Channel. In the distance is the Lynchburg Ferry, and at right Independence Parkway. The park features a viewing walk along the Ship Channel, a playground, and historic markers telling the story of Juan Seguin's contribution to the Texas Revolution.

See New Juan Seguin Park, Page 8

### POLITICS

## Rep. Ana Hernandez will run for Texas Senate

HOUSTON, TX- Following Texas Senator Sylvia Garcia's successful campaign for the Democratic nomination for Congressional District 29, State Representative Ana Hernandez (D-Houston), announced her intention to run to fill a potential vacancy for Senate District 6. If elected, Representative Hernandez would make history as the first former undocumented member of the Texas Senate.

Known for her formidable legislative skills, Hernandez has been recognized as one of the most effective Democratic lawmakers in the Texas House, with a bill passage rate nearly 50% greater than her peers. In the last two legislative sessions alone, she was not only critical in fighting, and winning, against countless discriminatory measures, but passed a formidable



REP. HERNANDEZ

agenda of two dozen of her own bills out of the Texas House, authoring laws that help families find good-paying jobs, crack down on human trafficking, and make our neighborhoods safer.

“Senator Garcia has been a tireless champion for our communities in

Austin. As she prepares to fight on our behalf in our nation's capital, I hope to continue her legacy in our state government on the Senate floor,” Hernandez said. “Since my election in 2005, I've always put hard-working Texas families first. From working across the aisle to improve state programs so that they better provide for veterans and their families to battling discriminatory, anti-family laws like SB 4 on the House floor and in court, I've never backed down from a challenge, and have never rested until the battle is won.”

“Over the past few months, I have met with neighbors where they live, work and worship, and am ready to hit the campaign trail and earn our community's trust and vote. I look forward to kicking off our campaign in the coming days.”

### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

## Jacinto City's new Police Station nears completion

JACINTO CITY – March 12, 2018 after years of attempts by numerous Police Chiefs their quest for a new police station will soon finally become a reality.

Joe M. Ayala, the city's Police Chief said he's ecstatic as he sees his goal come true. Ayala said “our department will finally be able to perform all the forensic tests we need in order to solve crimes we've never been able to do here.” They'll be a modern forensic laboratory in-house for defining illicit drug types and analyzing fingerprints taken from a crime scene. Now we have to transport evidence to distant labs taking valuable law enforcement personnel away from the city” the chief said.

Lon Squyres, the City Manager said the new facility will provide a “safe-zone area” with security cameras recording the



Chief Joe Ayala and former Police Chief Allan Jamail review building plans of the new police station.

area for citizens who may be in a domestic custody situation where they can exchange their kids knowing the transaction is under police surveillance. He also said, there will be an Emergency Operation Center to be used during disasters.

Allan Jamail a North

Channel Star writer and former police chief said he began his goal for a new police station in 1976 citing electrical problems and over-crowding conditions. Every police chief following Jamail's term lobbied

See New Police Station, Page 3



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Librarian loves local books



Librarian Diane Baker bought one each of Crosby author Donna Hechler Porter's historic novels that focus on the 18th Century and the formation of this nation at the Edith Faye Cook Cole Harris County Branch Library during the Friend's Of the Crosby Library book sale last weekend.

## Sterling-White welcomes new team member



Teri Tucker, Office Manager, and Jeff Moore, Managing Partner, welcome Tom Getz, new Family Service Manager. Jeff Moore welcomed a new team member to Sterling-White Cemetery last week. At Jeff's right Tom Getz comes to us from northeast Ohio. The Cemetery and Funeral Home are about to embark on a new series of lunch and learn programs for families performed by Mr. Getz's team to acquaint families with the benefits of "Pre-Need Planning." Getz indicates he has an extensive family services background and has a bachelors degree in Business Administration from Heidelberg College. He has two children, both in college. Getz says he likes warm weather and loves to golf.

## Hippity Hop Easter Hunt

Children up to age nine are welcome to join in the fun-filled activities at Crosby Community Center Saturday, March 24 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Activities include crafts, a picture with the Easter bunny, train ride, treats, and hunting for goodies nestled in bright plastic eggs. Children are encouraged to bring an Easter basket. Space is limited, so register today by calling the Center at (281) 462-0543.

Easter Egg Hunt Schedule:  
9:30 a.m. Ages 3 and under  
10 a.m. Ages 4 through 6  
10:30 a.m. Ages 7 through 9  
Crosby Community Center is located at 409 Hare Road, Crosby 77532. Center hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For more information regarding classes or other Center programs, please call (281) 462-0543.

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STUNNING 5 BEDROOM home has 3 and a half baths game room and a 2 car garage. The living room has a great open floor plan for family living and entertaining. The spacious kitchen has an island and plenty of countertops and cabinets for storage. \$182,500

ON 15TH HOLE in cul-de-sac! Split level home with large living room, formal dining (currently being used as office), open breakfast and kitchen with a spacious master bedroom with French doors leading to balcony overlooking the 15th Hole. \$184,900

STUNNING WATERFRONT CUSTOM BUILT home recently remodeled with updated cabinets and granite countertops, flooring, interior and exterior doors and many more. This multi-level floor plan has an enormous living room for entertaining, spacious master bedroom and bathroom, 3 oversized bedrooms and game room. The spacious kitchen has plenty of cabinet space and countertops. \$624,900

SOLD

CARL PIPES home on slab with builder piers. Sits on 1/2 acre, roof approx 5 years old. Lemon, lime, orange and grapefruit trees. Oversize 3 car garage will accommodate your truck and boat, workshop off garage opens to backyard. Screened porch, patio for all your entertaining needs. Small office/craft room looks on to back yard. Hurricane covers for all windows. \$255,000

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sheldon ISD STEM team goes to Washington, DC

Sheldon ISD received a grant to send six representatives from their district STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Team to Washington, DC on February 23-25th to attend the Teacher Leadership Summit.

The STEM Team from Sheldon consisted of two STEM Elementary principals (Attina Young and Rachelle Ysquierdo), a STEM Lab Teacher (Sherrell Wilson), the STEM campus facilitator (Annette Clark), the Director of Innovative Programs (Becky Zalesnik) and a business partner from LyondellBasell (Ludith Gonzalez). The summit was sponsored by the Smithsonian Science Education Center and Shell and took place on the Howard University Campus.

The purpose of the three day summit was to provide an opportunity for STEM educators from all over the nation to work together and with their team develop a logic model to address the need to attract, retain and develop diverse STEM teacher leaders. At this summit 160 STEM leaders from across the nation rolled up their sleeves to develop their action plans. "This event was a great opportunity for our team to get insight from educators from all over that are implementing a STEM program in their district and a chance to share what we



Sheldon ISD STEM team at Washington,DC



STEAM team receiving grant for summit.

are doing that is working with STEM in Texas as well", said Zalesnik. "This is just another example of the growing interest in STEM for schools across the nation and the need for everyone involved to continue learning and growing so that we can provide quality leadership in STEM. One of our goals as we continue to implement a "quality" STEM program in Sheldon is to continue to

attract quality, diverse, STEM teachers that will provide our students with the 21st Century classroom that embraces job skills needed for the future workforce such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking and creativity learning. Preparing our students to be college and/or career ready just got interesting with the implementation of STEM. Not only will our students be ready for the jobs of the future, but they will be equipped with the skills and experience to problem solve and demonstrate grit that will make them a successful employee for their future employer."

Galena Park High School Robotic Team heads to World Championship



Members of Galena Park High School robotics Team KAOS

Galena Park High School's robotics Team KAOS competed at the South Texas VEX Robotics State Championship along with seventy-seven other top teams from across state on Saturday, February 24, 2018.

Robotics coach, Paul Johnson said, "We used a unique defense strategy that topped the competition round after round earning us a division finalist spot, which also qualified us to compete at the VEX World Championships this year!"

This will be Johnson's 6th trip to the prestigious competition with Team KAOS!

Members of the robotics team will work countless hours over the next few weeks strategically calibrating their robot to perform at its optimum level at the VEX World Championships in Louisville, Kentucky.

Galena Park ISD wishes KAOS the best as they compete with over 500 teams from 54 countries around the world in April.

New Juan Seguin Park,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Descendant Albert Seguin, (fourth great grandson of Juan Seguin) tells what the park means to the family of the survivor of the Alamo.

to the park. The park was paid for by funds from the Waste Pits Superfund settlement, and Pct. 2. The park was designed by Clark Condon Landscape Architects, and built by Landscape Art, Inc.

New park features include a pier that overlooks the Ship Channel, a large pavilion with artwork etched into its concrete base, a nautical-themed playground, walking trails, and picnic tables scattered throughout. Park visitors will also find interpretive panels with historical information on the Lynchburg Ferry, Ship Channel, and Juan Seguin.

Juan Seguin Park is located next to the Lynchburg Ferry south landing at 4407 Independence Parkway South in La Porte.



Charles Lara, a reenactor, in the role and dress of Juan Seguin from the Texas Revolution.

It is open Monday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information and updates on the Precinct, visit [www.hcp2.com](http://www.hcp2.com) or like their Facebook page "Harris County Precinct 2."

New Police Station,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for a newer and larger facility to no avail.

Chief Ayala said in his report that Allan Jamail in September of 2009 petitioned the administration for a new and larger facility. Jamail said there wasn't enough room for records and evidence and the electrical system was overloaded. But instead of building a larger facility a used cargo container was placed outside the police station for records and evidence keeping.

Lon Squyres back in 2010 as the city's fire chief and fire marshal inspected the police station and said it was a fire hazard and death trap but nothing was done to correct the electrical wiring and crowding.

In 2014 a couple of electrical fires at the facility finally got the attention of the current administration and Lon Squyres began taking immediate steps to get ar-

chitect-engineering plans and quotes to build the new facility.

Architect Ed Gant stated that the first floor is 10,710 square feet, the second floor is 8,966 square feet, the total building size is 21,506 square feet. The second story will allow expansion for future needs. Cost is budgeted at just over \$2 million.

Chris Gant the General Contractor expects this May the department's personnel will vacate the existing facility which will be demolished and made into a parking lot.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Public Sale of property to satisfy a landlord's lien. Sale to be held at Sierra Ranch Storage at 8720 Sierra Ranch Dr., Houston, TX 77044 on March 26 at 10:00 am. Cleanup deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw the property at any time before the sale. Unit items sold for cash to highest bidder. Property includes the contents of the space of Kelly Saski: appliances, boxes, mattresses, gardening supplies, hammock stand, and miscellaneous furniture.

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# OPINION PAGE

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MESSAGE FROM  
REP. BRIAN BABIN



## Tax Cut Law = More Jobs & Larger Paychecks

The American people and small businesses across East Texas are reaping the benefits of the new tax cut law. It's putting more money in people's pockets and enabling businesses – American employers - to create jobs, purchase new equipment and expand. It is growing our economy.

Ninety percent of Americans are getting a tax break from lower tax rates, a doubling of the standard deduction to \$24,000 for a married couple (\$12,000 for individuals), and increasing the child tax credit to \$2,000 per child.

We've all seen the headlines about large businesses and their employees benefitting from lower taxes. While this is great news, it is important to note that the benefits go far beyond large businesses. I've been hearing from hundreds of individuals, families and small businesses about how their tax bills are being cut and what they are doing with those tax savings.

ExxonMobil has announced a \$50 billion investment in its U.S. operations and employees over the next five years. Walmart, Home Depot, Lowes and Best Buy have boosted wages or given employees bonuses and in some cases, both. Boeing announced \$300 million in employee-related investments and charitable giving.

To break this down even further, let's discuss the stories that are improving lives and growing businesses across Southeast Texas.

Juan and Leigh, both small business owners in Houston, wrote to tell me they have hired additional employees with the money they are saving. That's putting our friends and neighbors to work.

Small business owners in Polk and Tyler counties shared with me how they were able to purchase new equipment to help their women-owned businesses grow and run more efficiently. Another business owner in Orange

County is purchasing a larger inventory for her business.

Folks, small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and I am hearing story after story like this about small businesses growing and hiring our friends and neighbors.

The tax rate cuts for individuals and families are also making a huge difference for East Texans. This should be no surprise as nearly every American is getting a tax cut.

Robert from Highlands, Texas wrote to tell me that he is using his tax savings to help his daughter get a college degree.

Alan in Houston has decided to put is tax cut into savings for his retirement.

Ms. Drake is now able to buy a new stove, while Justin from Harris County is paying down credit card debt.

Scott is using his savings to help him purchase a home.

Mr. Woods told me that he will be spending his tax savings on his wife. Mr. Woods – that's a good decision!

The tax cuts are even helping in Hurricane Harvey recovery.

Judy from Orange County shared with me how the tax cuts have enabled her to replace household items destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. And, Jason from Baytown is using his savings to help repair his home.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is making a real difference in the lives of real people across Southeast Texas and the nation.

Each of these individual decisions adds up and as a result tens of billions of dollars in economic activity is being generated benefitting individuals and employees.

I'm excited that tens of millions of Americans are seeing lower payroll deductions, larger paychecks, more retirement savings, bigger family budgets and relief at every level.

This tax cut bill is benefitting families, job creators and our economy.


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TWO CENTS WORTH

By Charlie A. Farrar



Me & the Mrs. took a road trip to Sweetwater, Texas to look at the rattlesnakes gathered at this year's roundup and there were some big ones as usual. Looked as though they had a record number of rattlesnakes this year judging by the height of the pile of them in the pit. The total weight of rattlers for 2016 was 24,262 pounds and that was a new record. Back in 2006 the longest snake was 79 inches.

Last year the largest rattlesnake was 69" and the total pounds of snakes in the roundup totaled 7,458 pounds. Mind you this is not a catch and release event. Some are offended by that but that's ok if you savvy.

The Sweetwater Jaycees sell the rattlesnake meat and has some fried at the event. Take my advice and save your money, all we could taste when we got some rattlesnake to eat was the grease and cornmeal. No meat just bones fried in the Mrs.'s opinion.

Consider it a day trip driving from Baytown to Sweetwater and we have our usual outlook for hawks and what is on the highway as road kill. This year we counted 26 dead skunks, numerous coyotes, coons, lots of deer and some unidentified creatures on the road and on side of the road.

That is an event for about every 2 to 3 years for us.

Prior to that trip we drove between Columbia, South Carolina and Charlotte, North Carolina. That trip lasted over 2 weeks as we acted as chauffeur for my sister. She was not allowed to drive and believe me she lives in the woods. Don't even bother turning on your Verizon wireless, it don't work worth a hoot in the country there.

Think we will stay in Texas for a while now, allow time for the bills to roll in and see if we can make do till then.

By the way a congressman says they can't live decently on \$178,000.00 a year and need a raise.

Lots of the people who vote them in live on a lot less.

## Your Peace Officer

By Robert Hahn

They put themselves between you and the worst that society has to offer. They lay their lives on the line every day so that you can be safe. They accept your rudeness, and abuse when you disagree with a citation as readily as they accept the rare moment of praise that they receive when they have just saved your life, your family's life, or your property. Without exception if you ask them why they do it, they will say to make a difference, and to help others. If your definition of a hero is a normal person who under abnormal conditions rises above their natural instinct for self-preservation to protect others, then you have just defined who they are!

And if you are wondering how you might repay them in some small way for what they do, that is simple. When you see an Officer or Deputy the next time, thank them for everything they do, and tell them how much you appreciate it!

If you pass them in your car, smile and give them a thumbs-up. It is a small gesture for you, but can mean a lot to them! And lastly, if you ever find yourself starting to take them for granted, just ask yourself, could I do that job? I THINK YOU KNOW THE ANSWER!!!

## More Texans than usual cast ballots in primary elections

AUSTIN — In early voting, Texans participated in greater numbers in the state Democratic primary than the Republican primary, but on Election Day, March 6, the Republican turnout exceeded the Democratic turnout by half a million votes.

Primaries historically have been light-turnout affairs. This time, about 10 percent of the state's 15 million registered voters cast ballots in the Republican primary and about 7 percent in the Democratic primary. In contrast, in March 2014, 7 percent of the state's 13 million registered voters cast ballots in the GOP primary and 3 percent cast ballots in the Democratic primary.

Republican voters expressed satisfaction with top incumbents: 90 percent marked their ballots for Gov. Greg Abbott and 76 percent for Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. GOP incumbents Attorney General Ken Paxton and Comptroller Glenn Hegar ran unopposed. Land Commissioner George P. Bush got 58 percent of the vote and his closest challenger, former state senator and Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, got 29 percent of the vote. Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller received 55 percent of the vote, while challengers Jim Hogan and Trey Blocker received about 23 percent and 21 percent, respectively. Railroad Commissioner Christi Craddick received 76 percent of the vote to challenger Weston Martinez's 24 percent.

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz received 85 percent of the vote, while none of his four challengers received more than 7 percent.

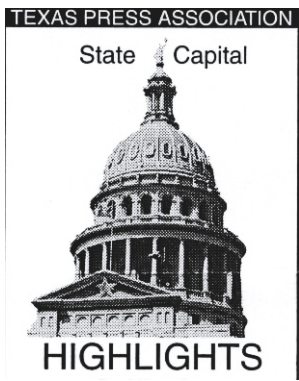
Advancing to a May 22 runoff in the Democratic primary are the party's top two vote-getters in the race for governor, former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez with 43 percent and Andrew White, son of late former Texas Gov. Mark White, with 27 percent.

Mike Collier, with 52 percent of the vote to

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STATE CAPITAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Ed Sterling



Michael Cooper's 48 percent, will face Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick in the Nov. 6 election. Also, Justin Nelson will face Attorney General Paxton; Joi Chevalier will face Comptroller Hegar; Miguel Suazo will face Land Commissioner Bush; Kim Olson, who ran opposed, will face Agriculture Commissioner Miller; and Roman McAllen will face Railroad Commissioner Craddick.

U.S. Rep. "Beto" O'Rourke, D-El Paso, received nearly 62 percent of the vote, winning the right to challenge Republican U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz in the Nov. 6 election.

### Sales rebates increase

State Comptroller Glenn Hegar on March 7 announced he would send cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts some \$671 million in local sales tax allocations for March.

The amount is 8.3 percent more than allocated in March 2017. Allocations are based on sales made in January by businesses that report tax monthly.

Of the overall amount, cities received \$431 million; counties, \$42 million; transit systems, \$150.5 million; and special purpose taxing districts, \$47 million.

More details can be found on the comptroller's website under Monthly Sales Tax Allocation Comparison Summary Reports.

### Assistance is extended

Gov. Abbott on March 6 announced that the Federal Emergency Management Agency granted his request to extend until April 23 the deadline for transitional sheltering assistance for victims of Hurricane Harvey, which struck Aug. 25-31.

The assistance helps those unable to return to their homes pay for short-term shelter in hotels or other temporary housing. Some 5,500 households meet the criteria for eligibility.

Abbott said Texans with questions regarding their eligibility or status may contact the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362.

In other news, Abbott met with U.S. Small Business Administration Chief Linda McMahon on March 9 in Austin. Abbott thanked McMahon for the federal agency's work in assisting small business owners affected by Hurricane Harvey and for the SBA's monitoring of the storm as it made landfall, enabling the agency to mobilize and prepare staff quickly to address the needs of the victims.

Abbott said 41,412 SBA low-interest disaster loans totaling more than \$3 billion have been granted for Texans impacted by Harvey.

### Unemployment stays low

The Texas Workforce Commission on March 9 reported that the Lone Star State's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 4.0 percent the month of January, just below the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.1 percent.

The Texas economy added 16,000 jobs in January. Industries adding jobs that month included Mining and Logging, 3,300 jobs; Education and Health Services, 2,800 jobs; and Manufacturing, 2,400 positions.

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area recorded the month of January's lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a non-seasonally adjusted rate of 2.4 percent. It was followed by the Amarillo MSA with a rate of 2.8 percent and Austin-Round Rock MSA with the third-lowest rate of 3.0 percent.

HIGHLANDS CROSBY

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LIFESTYLE

VETERANS POST  
Looking Out for No. 1

By Freddy Groves

All across the country there are veterans who might be ill and not know it. The reason: They don't have the results of their medical tests.

If you have medical tests done at a veterans' facility, before you leave, ask when the results will be ready. You'll likely be told, "Someone will call you." Get a name and write it down. Later if you start getting anxious because you haven't gotten a call, give it one more day ... then go on the hunt.

Leave messages for your care manager, if you have one, and your doctor. Give it another day. If you don't hear back, try again. Call the medical facility and ask for the lab. They're not likely to give you the results, but ask when the results were ready, and get that person's name. That's part of your ammo ... knowing

that results were ready and when. Then call the care manager or doctor back and state that the results were ready at a certain time.

See how this works? Be proactive. Through all these steps, your name gets out there as someone who's hunting for test results. The same is true if you have a My HealtheVet account.

Once you get the results over the phone, ask that a copy be mailed to you (or print it from your online account), which you'll then put in your file at home.

If you have a condition that is regularly monitored, there's a possibility that you can make pals with someone in the lab who will just read the results to you.

The bottom line is that you don't stop until you have the results. Stand up for yourself and guard your health. Don't assume that no news is good news. Be sure.

Dr. Seuss' Birthday



Austin Elementary students (from left) Camila Carrero, Taryn Langston, Matison Langston, Ainsley Benort, Emery Walker, Lucas Findlay, Amaya Russell, and Bradley Chance show off their attire for Dr. Seuss' birthday.



Photos by Carrie Pryor-newman  
Bradley Chance , Ainsley Benoit and Emery Walker, second-graders at Stephen F. Austin Elementary, are ready for Dr. Seuss' birthday.

IN THE STARS

- BIRTHDAYS**  
Mar 15--Jessica Luco  
Sky Mespadden  
Sandy Mullins  
Mrs. L.P. Stevens  
Rosa Ella Young  
Angie Zadraba  
Mar 16--M. Edith Miller  
Zachary Dunlap  
Mar 17--Lyndsay Dammon  
Mar 18--Kent Nelson  
Mar 19--Yvonne Browder  
Isabell Daniels  
Annie Mari-e Herron  
Chris Scott  
Jett Sherwood  
Mar 20--Josh Kimberlin  
Mar 21--Crystal Burton  
Jerry Eversole  
Kathy Townsend

- ANNIVERSARIES**  
Mar 16--Yvonne & Dale Browder

BIBLE TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of Mark in the Old or New Testament or neither?
  2. What kind of physical problem did Timothy have of which Paul advised a little wine? Back, Stomach, Head, Legs
  3. From Proverbs 22, "A good name is rather to be chosen than great ..." Riches, Witness, Corruption, Love
  4. What is the Hebrew word that's usually translated as "blessing"? Brocho, Chosson, Chumash, Ducket
  5. From Acts 8, who baptized the Ethiopian eunuch? Isaiah, James, Philip, Paul
  6. How old was Abraham when he died? 75, 175, 202, 256
- ANSWERS: 1) New; 2) Stomach; 3) Riches; 4) Brocho, 5) Philip; 6) 175

THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

Detail of the "Woman at her Toilet" (c.1895-1900) by Edgar Degas

But if a woman has long hair, it is a glory to her; for her hair is given to her for a covering.

1 CORINTHIANS 11:15

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**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

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Pride only breeds quarrels,  
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in trouble  
Psalm: 46:1

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**ROMANS 8:18**

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the Holy Spirit and began to  
speak in other tongues as the  
Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:4

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Be alert. Continue strong in  
the faith. Have courage  
and be strong.  
1 Corinthians 16:13

Rise in the presence of the  
aged, show respect for the  
elderly and revere your God.  
Leviticus 19:32



# ASK THE EXPERT

## ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: "What is the history of Sterling Silver?"



### Characteristics of Sterling Silver

The whitest of all of the precious metals, sterling silver has been heralded for centuries for its highly lustrous finish and versatile applications. Although harder than gold, sterling silver is still considered one of the more pliable and supple metals. Its malleability makes silver easy to hammer and mold into various forms and shapes. Silver melts at a slightly lower temperature than gold (1760 degrees F as opposed to 1960 degrees F).

### Naming & History of Sterling Silver

Dating back to the time of primitive man, silver has been referred to by many different naming conventions. The story of how the word "sterling" was incorporated into the name is rooted in 12th-century lore. As payment for English cattle, an association of eastern Germans compensated the British with silver coins dubbed "Easterlings." Eventually, the Easterling was widely accepted as a standard of English currency. The name was ultimately abbreviated to "Sterling," which is now used to refer to the highest grade of silver metal.

The official designation of "sterling" to a piece of silver indicates that it contains at least 92.5% of pure silver. The remaining 7.5% can be comprised of any other metal alloy, most commonly copper. Although it may seem that an even higher silver content would be desirable, that's not actually the case. Metal alloys with a silver content of more than 92.5% are too pliable to be used without suffering from dents and dings. The second alloy is required to ensure the metal's stability and resilience.

### Other Types of Silver

In addition to sterling silver, which contains 92.5% silver and 7.5% copper alloy, there are many

different varieties and grades of silver in production throughout the world:

**Fine silver:** This type of silver has a silver content of 99.9% or higher. Fine silver is much too soft to be used in everyday applications, such as jewelry or tableware. This premium class of silver is used to make bullion bars for international commerce.

**Britannia silver:** A higher grade than sterling silver, Britannia has a silver content of at least 95.84%. Originating as a standard in Britain as far back as 1697, Britannia silver is denoted by a hallmark stamp of "958" to indicate its silver content, sometimes accompanied by the symbol of Britannia.

**Mexican silver:** Another premium silver, Mexican silver consists of at least 95% pure silver and 5% copper. This elite form of the metal is not currently in wide circulation in Mexico; most of the silver jewelry and accents sold in Mexican marketplaces is forged from 92.5% sterling.

**Coin silver:** Comprised of 90% silver and 10% copper, coin silver is made from melting down standard silver coins. Lower in silver content than sterling, this metal was widely used as silver tableware in the United States between 1820 and 1868, and as common currency until 1964.

**German silver:** This term is usually used to refer to 800-standard silver, which consists of 80% silver and is commonly used for silverware, silver tableware, and decorative silver accents. 900-standard silver is another higher-grade version of German silver, and has a 90% silver content.

Diamond Jim is a diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. See more at: [www.pineforestjewelry.com](http://www.pineforestjewelry.com).

If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email [jim@pineforestjewelry.com](mailto:jim@pineforestjewelry.com).

## Filling Stomachs, Touching Generations

Chances are very good that if you have lived in the North Channel Area very long, you have visited Gatti's Pizza on Uvalde Road. Whether it was for a quick lunch with your coworkers, a Sunday meal after church or for a child's birthday party or perhaps for an end of the season celebration for a youth sports team. Just as soon as you enter the building, you feel the love and smell the fresh pizza. You also surely remember the pleasant "Welcome to Gatti's" greeting from Robert Juarez or another staff member.

Recently, one of my children asked if we had to guess, how many meals we had even there over the years.

I laughed. As a single mom, we probably ate there at least once a week with others from church from 1995 until 2011, then add in that my three children each played multiple sports with the YMCA or Wallisville Road Athletic Club (WRAC) from 1993 until



2008. Yes, we have eaten there a time or two. If you added the number of birthday celebrations they attended as well as the numerous times we picked up pizza for a school event, you might think we should own stock in the company.

It was not until recently that I asked Robert's son Jessi a few questions that I realized the rich history I had been missing out on.

Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina, Robert went to work as a bus boy for Gatti's in 1992. Within the next two years, the owners were ready to close the store as more competitors moved into the community. Instead of looking for another job, Robert decided to purchase the store and start making some changes. It was in 1996

that he remodeled and opened the Game Room. (I know I should have stock in those games. My children and grandchildren cannot walk in without asking for money for the games.)

Over the years, between picking up pizza for school parties and ordering pizza to be delivered to events, I have come to know the family and likewise, when I stop in to eat, they always ask about my children and grandchildren.

Another locally owned restaurant that has been filling stomachs and touching generations is Pizzini's on Mercury Drive. If you have ever been here, you surely remember the murals painted on the walls featuring paintings of the television and movie stars. More important, if

you have eaten there, you remember the awesome Beef Boy Sandwich, the homemade lasagna as well as their amazing chicken fried steak as well as their endless salad bar.

My family and I first moved to North Shore in 1971 and we were treated to dinner the first. Over the years, Pizzini's has been a choice for Homecoming Dates as well as family gatherings. In addition, they typically cater meals for the North Channel Area Chamber of Commerce every August when the Meeting is held in Jacinto City. If you stop in at lunch, you will see many familiar faces from the community. Nights are usually several families with multi-generations having dinner or even groups meeting to plan their high school reunion. The love is felt in the restaurant as well as in the community. If you have not stopped at either of these, do so soon. Meet the owners and enjoy great food.



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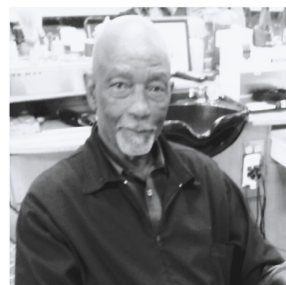
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**~Colin Powell**

## CONNECTIONS



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11-3

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF CHANGE OF AN OFFICIAL DESIGNATED DISTRICT OFFICE AND MEETING PLACE

TO THE RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS OF HARRIS COUNTY WATER CONTROL AND IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO. 1 (the "District") AND TO ALL OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Directors ("Board") of Harris County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1 (hereinafter called "District"), at a meeting of said Board held on February 13, 2018, adopted an Order Establishing District Office and Meeting Place Outside the District and Designating Official Repository For District's Records (the "Order"), which Order established the official office and records repository of the District outside the District boundaries at 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3150, Houston, Texas 77019. Additionally, the Order established an additional office and meeting place at 11821 East Freeway, Suite 400, Houston, Texas 77029. The District also established an additional meeting place inside the boundaries of the District at Highlands VF Department, 123 San Jacinto St., Highlands, TX 77562; and reaffirmed its regular office, repository and meeting place inside the District at 125 San Jacinto Avenue, Highlands, Texas 77562.

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## Channelview ISD Bus Crash,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



EMERGENCY RESPONDERS WORK WITH FLASHLIGHTS in the early morning darkness, to extricate passengers from the overturned bus. They had difficulty reaching the bus due to the 50 foot drop.

er, family members said that he had recently passed a physical exam and was healthy.

The accident happened at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, while it was still dark. Authorities said that after the initial 9-1-1 calls, about a dozen fire and EMS departments responded from nearby cities, and about 5 helicopters were used to transport injured people. The bus held about 40 students, age 15-18, and six adults. Those injured were taken to 10 area hospitals, according to later reports. Most victims were treated at Sacred Heart hospital in Pensacola, where two remained in serious but not life threatening condition.

Students reported that they were thrown through the air, landed on top of each other, or wedged under the seats. They used the light from cell phones to help get out of the overturned bus. It was dark, cold, and lonely at the bottom of that ravine.

Interstate I-10 was shut down in both directions during the rescue operation, and did not reopen for about 10 hours, causing massive traffic problems in Alabama and the Florida panhandle.

The lead bus, which had stopped briefly when the accident occurred, continued westward and arrived in Channelview about 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, where it was met by parents and school officials.

Meanwhile, injured students had been taken to about 10 hospitals in the Mobile and Pensacola areas, and were later gathered at Coastal Church in Daphne, Alabama awaiting transportation back to Channelview. Many chose not to ride in a bus or car, and were put on planes. Others waited for their parents to arrive, and take them safely back home.

One of the more seriously injured passengers was

the band director, Aaron Allison, with multiple injuries that required surgery. He had been the last person removed from the overturned bus, almost 3-1/2 hours after the crash.

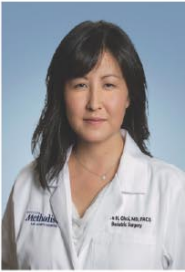
Channelview ISD superintendent kept parents and media informed of news from the site, and the district issued the following statement:

*"First and foremost, our thoughts and prayers go out to our students, employees, and families that have been affected by this tragedy. As you are well aware, a charter bus carrying Channelview High School band students was involved in an accident returning from Florida early this morning. At this time, we have been able to confirm that 40 students and 6 adults from Channelview were on the bus at the time of the accident. We are aware of numerous injuries. We are now focused on getting everyone back safely to our community. We are extremely grateful for the first responders, hospital employees, and volunteers from churches and schools in Alabama and Florida that have stepped up to help our students and comfort them through this difficult situation. Those communities have opened their hearts and arms to our children and employees. They have provided resources, support, and a safe and welcoming environment while we work through the logistics of reuniting our families. We also want to thank our state and local officials who have all reached out to help us. Governor Abbott, Senator Sylvia Garcia, Commissioner Jack Morgan, Representative Ana Hernandez, and Precinct 3 Constable Sherman Eagleton have all reached out to offer support and assistance."*

Authorities said that the bus company and the driver had better

than average safety records, and their fleet of 58 buses seem to be well maintained. The company employs about 94 drivers, records show.

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Dr. Laura Choi, medical director of the Weight Management Center, will provide information on the benefits of using medical weight management to maintain personal goals for patients who want to lose weight with and without surgery. Dr. Choi will explain how the center provides personalized care for individuals with medical issues caused by obesity, including high blood pressure, obstructive sleep apnea, asthma, diabetes or lipid disorders. This free educational event will address the most common questions regarding medical weight management and weight loss surgery.

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